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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 23, 2005

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for September 23, 2005. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

ZAMAN / SABAH / RADIKAL: The Van Anti-Terror Branch, obtaining intelligence about seven terrorists residing in a house in Van, conducted a raid on the house. Alleged terrorists opened fire during the raid. Three terrorists were killed, and a further four were caught alive. Two kilograms of C-4 explosives and 2 blocks of TNT explosives were reportedly found in the house. Reportedly, two of the terrorists killed were ones who perpetrated the September 17 attack on a Van Police Station, which killed two police officers.

OZGUR GUNDEM: The daily reported that the operation conducted against a house in Van, killing three alleged terrorists, was an as "extra-judicial killing." According to the paper, the police killed innocent people and declared them as terrorists afterwards "on the very day the PKK/Kongra-Gel declared that it prolonged the ceasefire."

HURRIYET (CUKUROVA): President Ahmet Nejdet Sezer, who came to Gaziantep for the opening of Gaziantep University's academic year yesterday, met today at the Governor's Office with the provincial businessmen. Reportedly, the businessmen conveyed to the President their concerns about the antional incentive list's omission of Gaziantep province.

ZAMAN: Mehmet Agar, the DYP (True Path Party) national leader, said that he and his Kurdish origin friends had fought together against the terrorist organization PKK. Agar further added that belonging to another ethnic origin did not prevent people from being loyal to the (Turkish) flag.

BOLGE: Veysel Oguz, the MHP (National Movement Party) Mardin Provincial Chairperson, paid a visit to Yilmaz Tankut, the Adana Provincial Chairperson. During his visit, Oguz said that tension has flared up in the (southeastern) region as a result of PM Erdogan's Diyarbakir speech early in August. According to Oguz, there exists no "Kurdish problem" in the region.

EKSPRES: Hasan Yaman, the MHP provincial chairperson of Adana's Seyhan district, said that a new border gate, which would open to Tel Afar in Iraq, should be opened and the Habur border gate in Sirnak be closed. According to Yaman, the PKK has been benefiting from revenue gained from the Habur Gate.

OZGUR GUNDEM: A dog biting three villagers and two cattle in Hakkari's Durankaya town raised suspicion that the dog might have rabies.

OZGUR GUNDEM: The dead body of a young male person, who was approximately 22 years old, was found nearby a road between the Halfeti and Birecik districts of Sanliurfa Two days ago. Reportedly, Birecik State Hospital will bury the dead, unless somebody claims the body.

OZGUR GUNDEM: The paper claims that Turkey and Iran have completed their joint military operations in and bordering on Van's Baskale district. According to the paper, military operations have been intensified. A military unit in Hakkari's Cukurca district has reportedly been bombarding Turkey's border with northern Iraq.

SABAH (GUNEY): A big Turkish flag was found on a roadside in a torn and ragged condition in Mersin. The police, upon receiving notice of the flag, suspected that a bomb might have been placed under the flag. However, the bomb squad teams, which were called to the scene, found no bombs at the spot.

RADIKAL: A lawsuit was initiated in Mardin against 13 soldiers, who allegedly have "breached the rules about firearms use, and caused the death of people in such a way that the perpetrator of the killing remains unknown" in October 2003 in Kovali village of Mardin.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

1. EKSPRES / (CUKUROVA): A group comprised of the senior leaders of Adana, under the leadership of Abdullah Torun, Adana deputy from AKP, and including the provincial chairperson of AKP, the Adana mayor, chairpersons of chambers and agricultural

associations, held a press announcement. The group announced that they were committed to forming a lobby that would fight for the inclusion of Adana in GoT's agricultural incentive program.

12. HURRIYET (CUKUROVA): Gaziantep's 5th Gapfood Fair (Food, Food Technologies and Packaging), which has been organized by Gaziantep Chamber of Industry, was opened yesterday with a ceremony to which Binali Yildirim, Minister of Transportation, attended as well.

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